

**3 Metro Manila filmfest entries get 'A' grade**

**Gunmen ambush UN food truck in Lanao; 1 killed**

**SC stops Senate from continuing 'Hello Garci' probe**

**Gov't forms panel to talk peace with MILF rebels**

**Home showcase: The angels of Christmas**



## Erap-Loren tandem? Speculation still rife

By Christine O. Avendaño



SO WHAT WAS SHE DOING? "Feeling the voters?" After declaring that she had no plans of being Joseph "Erap" Estrada's running mate in 2010, ERAP LOREN 24

PHILIPPINE DAILY  
**INQUIRER**  
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, December 24, 2006 A4 8 sections / Vol. 24 / No. 16 P18 online www.inquirer.net

## Early Christmas gift for farmer-marchers

By Juan Escudero Jr.  
Pinaric Brothers Inc.

ISLA, CAMARINES SUR—CHRISTIANS came early for 37 farmers who walked 444 kilometers to Manila for 17 days to press a reversal by Makabansang of its order cancelling their entitlement to the

ENR 1/1

# Cory sorry sparks outrage

## Remark dismays Edsa II players

By Michael Lim-Uloc

FOR SAYING SORRY, former President Corason Aquino reaped the whirlwind.

"I'm as disappointed with Cory," Sen. Richard Gordon bristled, echoing the sentiment of some key leaders of People Power II that ousted President Joseph Estrada in January 2001 after his allies blocked his impeachment trial in the Senate for corruption.

"I'm as disappointed with Cory," said Gordon, who dispatched his supporters to the four-day uprising against Estrada.

"I'm as disappointed with Cory," said Gordon, who dispatched his supporters to the four-day uprising against Estrada. A day after Aquino asked for forgiveness from Estrada, at Monday's launch of deposed Speaker Jose de Venecia's bill all back about corruption in the Arroyo administration, the former of People Power II returned to Manila.

## PNP lapses show in CHR hearing on 'shootout'

By Mikko Dizon

THE FIRST PUBLIC HEARING that the Commission on Human Rights concluded yesterday on the Dec. 3 police operation in Marikina City that left six civilians dead revealed "disturbing" patterns, according to CHR Chair Leticia Lima.

"The preliminary assessment of the facts gathered and the report of our investigating team itself showed that at the very least, there were lapses [in the operation]. And that's even putting it very nicely," she Lima told reporters after wrapping up the first session of the hearing.

She said that while the hearing was still in its early stage, the initial information gathered showed that certain people should be held accountable for the civilian deaths, particularly that of Alfonso "Din" de Vera, his 7-year-old daughter Lin Alina, and a young employee Rosendo Fernandez.

The hearing held at the CHR main office in Quezon City lasted for eight hours and was attended by ranking police officials led by Director Leopoldo



**MONEY GIFTS** Former President Joseph Estrada, who was convicted of plunder by the Sandiganbayan and later pardoned by his successor, President Macapagal-Arroyo, hands out cash to well-wishers while leaving the Pandacan de Dones Filipina orphanage in Pico, Manila. (CNN)

## SWS: Christmas happy for 63% of Pinoys

**MOST FILIPINOS EXPECT A happy Christmas celebration this year, and "Inkon" salad, pasta and ham top the list of the "most anticipated dishes" in the festive feast, according to the latest survey by Social Weather Stations (SWS).**

The beach poster survey also found that for most Filipinos, money and clothing were also

among the best Christmas gifts they ever received. Three of every five wish Filipinos (63 percent) expect a happy Christmas celebration, while only 4 percent expect it to be sad, and about a third (27 percent) say it will be neither happy nor sad.

"Expectations of a happy Christmas have been un-

changed since 2004," SWS said in a statement released yesterday. When asked, "What is the one food or dish that you most look forward to eating this coming Christmas?" the top responses were "Inkon" (salad), ham (fried pork/butt) (14 percent), fruit or meatless food (12 percent), spaghetti and oth-

er pasta dishes (12 percent) and ham (10 percent). In Metro Manila, ham (34 percent) topped the list of the most anticipated food, while spaghetti and other pasta dishes (15 percent) were the most anticipated in Luzon outside Metro Manila. **ANON** was most anticipated (12 percent), spaghetti and oth-

er pasta dishes (12 percent) and ham (10 percent).

**ONE CHRISTMAS**

## 'Fixer' in fertilizer fund scam finally appears, denies raps

By Christine O. Avendaño

A SUSPECTED FIXER AND MANIPULATOR in the P728-million fertilizer fund scam is 2004 finally showed up yesterday at the Senate—and denied involvement in the controversy.

Jaime Paule, the subject of an arrest warrant up until yesterday, admitted knowing two of the women who had linked him to the fertilizer project, but not former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Jojo" Bolante, the alleged broker and architect of the fund scam.

Paule disclosed no crash else. He promised to return and answer questions on the fund scam at the next hearing of the

Senate blue ribbon committee on Jan. 26. Accompanied by his lawyer Francisco Topacio, Paule arrived at the Senate building in Pasay City shortly before noon. He was met by the blue ribbon committee chair, Sen. Richard Gordon, who sat with him in a closed-door meeting.

Topacio had promised Gordon after Monday's hearing that his client would turn up at the Senate.

Paule had been mentioned in the ongoing inquiry of the blue ribbon committee as the principal figure in the fund scam. An arrest warrant was issued by the Senate after efforts to locate him proved futile.

At a subsequent news briefing, Paule told



**WANTED WITNESS** Jaime Paule (right), one of the alleged manipulators in the P728-million fertilizer fund scam, surrenders to Sen. Richard Gordon. (AP)

## HIGHLANDERS ON EDGE Dev't comes to Tingguian land

INULM, ABRU—GOATS AND pigs graze among the ruins of a paper mill by the Abra River, a big industry project which brought war on the Tingguian tribal people of the northern Philippines highlands.

"It would be nice if we could have our farms back," said Daniel Rioses, 34, as he sat outside his hut wearing bamboo and rattan headgear, his remaining hopes of finding his family's home.

The mill, which the govern-

ment seized and tore down for

acquit after the 1986 fall of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, remains a sore topic around this mountainous region, the ancestral home of upland farmers and gatherers collectively known as the Tingguian.

Residents claim the government forced them to sell their farms to make way for Celibital Resources Corp., which took a franchise in the 1970s to harvest pine trees on some 400,000 hectares of forest land.

Then Ramang, a social

worker and former teacher, saw hundreds of his Tingguian students take up arms and join a widespread communist insurgency.

The new government signed a peace treaty with the hill people in 1987, and Ramang helped at least 300 Tingguian rebels get presidential pardons, government jobs or payoffs.

The project provoked social

unrest because it encroached on the Tingguian's ancestral



**MARKOS RELIC** A village built in the ruins of a pulp mill, which was built in Tuguegarao, Abra, during the Marcos regime and opposed by the Tingguian.





# DSWD gets P5B more for the poor

By Christine V. Espinoza

WITH THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL crisis expected to hit Philippine households next month, the government has decided to conditional cash transfer fund in P5 billion to benefit an additional 1 million schoolchildren across the country. The supplemental budget will allow the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to extend more financial assistance to another 1 million of 220,000 households in the 30 percent provinces in the country.

Under the current "Fast-track" welfare program, the government is doing via "Lent" for a household of three children attending day care on elementary in high school.

**Resilience plan**

Press Secretary Jesse Duterte yesterday said the program was part of the larger "Philippine Resilience Plan" in "preparation for whatever negative effects that the financial crisis will bring."

"It will not only help," social welfare secretary Esperanza Cabral said of the fund augmentation during a teleconference.

Cabral said the P5-billion budget would be good for the next year alone and assist a total of 400,000 households and 2 million children, particularly in allow their attend school and receive vaccines regularly.

She added that the figures

represented only about 14 percent of the projected 4.7 million poor households in the country.

"Even if it was covering every body, it is still covering a significant portion," she said.

The latest Social Welfare Survey showed hunger incidence having a record high of 22.7 percent, causing an estimated 4.5 million households experienced involuntary hunger over the last three months.

Cabral said the bulk of the money was "targeted" in the areas that it dealt with the respondents' "perceptions" of hunger.

**Scientific evaluation**

But she said the survey conducted every three years by the National Statistics Office should provide more scientific evaluation of hunger in the country.

"Even so, I think, natural inclination to respond to people," she said of the latest SWS survey, noting that the firm had also come out last week with a survey result showing a significant number of respondents are longer visited doctors and hospitals.

During the first quarter next year, the DSWD will identify the additional 120,000 households that would benefit from the new P5-billion allocation, according to social secretary.

Cabral said beneficiaries were determined through a computer-assisted randomization process covering the poorest households in the 30 percent provinces that is identified from SWS survey.

# Int'l experts coming to probe Ebola pig virus

By Donna Z. Pazibagao

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH EXPERTS will send a mission to the country to study with Philippine human and animal health experts to pinpoint the spread of a virulent Ebola virus found in some pigs here.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that the Philippine government had requested them to send an expert mission here to further investigate the situation.

It was the first time globally that the Ebola virus was detected in pigs, the WHO said in a statement.

Since being believed in last January,

that of the detection of the Ebola-Reston virus in Philippine pigs, the FAO, OIE and WHO have been working closely with the Philippine government and local animal and human health experts, the WHO said.

Philippine health officials have developed the effect of the Ebola-Reston virus on humans.

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# Wet Christmas seen

By Nicole Page

EXPECT A WET CHRISTMAS in Metro Manila and the rest of the country as a cold front will bring widespread rains, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said yesterday.

"The fall out of the cold front will be the development weather system to affect the eastern portion of the country. It is expected to include from eastern Luzon down to eastern Mindanao within the holiday period and long enough in widespread rains," said Pagasa Director Francisco in a media bulletin.

A cold front develops when warm air masses are cold air. One warm air mass is cold air, clouds are formed, leading to showers and thunderstorms.

A heavy rain fell over Metro Manila yesterday, rain days before Christmas.

Weather forecasts cited Christianized Cruz said rain may occur on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, because

of the conflicting nature of the cold front. The offshore, precipitation may continue especially in eastern Luzon, Mind and eastern Visayas.

Kilo said there will be moderate to strong winds over Luzon and Visayas driven by the northeast monsoon (amihan). This may result in moderate to heavy rainfall over the western side of Luzon in westward for high waves.

Temperatures will range from 20 degrees to 25 degrees centigrade.

"The weather bureau said no tropical cyclone is expected to enter the Philippine area of responsibility and the coastal zone."

However, an intertropical convergence zone will affect the northern and western parts of Mindanao, according to Pagasa website. This is the region where the equator where winds from the north and south hemisphere meet. When these winds converge, the accumulated moisture is released, creating a series of thunderstorms.

# 900 travelers barred from leaving in '08

By Kristine L. Rane

ABOUT 900 TRAVELERS were barred from leaving the country during the January-November 2008 and more of them were victims of illegal recruitment and human trafficking, the Bureau of Immigration said.

In a recent report, Immigration Commissioner Mercedes Llarena and immigration agents affiliated 900 passengers at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and other major ports in the course of the 11-month period.

Of the suspects, 799 were arrested by immigration workers (OWIs) who carried border patrol and check documents. Llarena said 256 of the OWIs did not have clearance from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration. Another 14 presented themselves as "border workers."

The new immigration rules had defined travel papers, while others were included in the human trafficking and smuggling.

Llarena said most of the OWIs that were affiliated were based in Singapore, Hong Kong, United Arab Emirates and other Middle Eastern countries.

The bureau recently implemented tougher rules against illegal recruitment and human trafficking. Llarena said most of the workers who fall prey to illegal recruiters and traffickers end up in the black trade or in the hands of abusive employers.

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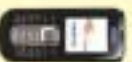
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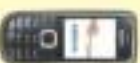
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plus METRO Editor: Ricardo S. Manzano

# Boy dies protecting father from attacker

## Victim used body to shield dad from knife-wielding man

By Marko Romulo

A 12-YEAR-OLD BOY WAS KILLED ON MONDAY night when he tried to shield his father from a knife-wielding man in Alibang, Marikina City.

Christopher Remando, a Grade 6 student, died while he was being taken to hospital due to the serious injury wounds he sustained from the attack. The man who stabbed him—Michael Domusany, 31, was in

front of his house in Rega, Paraiso, when he showed resistance at Domusany for occupation reason. Domusany added that Domusany who was walking home from work, knowingly let the attack continue after a few minutes, accompanied by several unidentified men.

Armed with a 12-inch knife, Domusany lunged at Joseph and started a free-for-all, the police investigation said. Upon seeing the incident, the

boy ran to his father and shielded him from Domusany using his body as a shield, he ended up taking most of the knife wounds intended for his father. "When Joseph saw his identified son, he took the knife from Domusany and pushed the assailant," Domusany said in a police report. He added that they were placed under arrest the boy's father who was confused at the Alibang Medical Center by such incident.

# 4 kidnap suspects killed in shootout with cops

By Beverly T. Macabido

FOUR SUSPECTED KIDNAPERS were killed in a shootout with the police in Marikina City yesterday.

Sgt. Ramon Lito, Marikina police chief, told the inquirer that the four men, who remained unidentified at press time, were believed to be members of the Villamor kidnapping gang.

Searcher's operation was conducted jointly by the Marikina police, the National Capital Region Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit (NCJ-CIDU) and the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response (PACER).

According to him, they received information that members of the kidnapping gang were



POLICE operations recovered the body of one of four suspected kidnappers killed in yesterday's operation in Marikina City. The suspect was lying on the ground, surrounded by police officers and forensic markers.

set up a checkpoint in Marikina City to intercept the suspects.

The men, on board the three, however, noticed that they were being followed and opened fire on the police officers.

The suspects were cornered on Legarda Street at around 2:30 a.m. Three of them died on the spot while the fourth was taken to the Villamor General Hospital where he died while receiving treatment.

Two others managed to escape.

Found inside the three were a machinegun, a 9 mm pistol, a submachine gun, a shotgun and ammunition.

Also said the group were involved in a robbery-kidnap incident in Marikina City last year.

# Peta: Be kind to animals

By Tina C. Santos

EVEN ANIMALS DESERVE to have a happy Christmas.

The animal rights group, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), yesterday urged everyone to be more kind to animals this holiday season by reducing their meat-eat consumption.


"This holiday season, we can extend peace and goodwill to animals by serving delicious, healthy and humane vegetarian meals. By serving holiday feasts to animals is really as simple as not eating them," said Michelle Bergeron, PETA Asia Pacific campaign manager.

She urged everyone to make it very obvious not just for health reasons but for the sake of compassion for animals.

"Not only is going vegetarian the best thing you can do for animals, leading health experts agree that adopting a vegetarian diet is the best thing we can do for ourselves and our families," she said.


According to PETA, a healthy vegetarian diet supports a lifetime of good health and prevents progression against various diseases, including heart disease, cancer and obesity.

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## WHAT'S INSIDE

■ So banners  
nfl-GM squad  
to UAE chess  
tournament (A21)



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■ Pau wins  
'Gasol  
showdowns'  
(A22)

# Red Bull ready to unload Baguio

## Cruz part of trade with either TNT or Air21 as Barako downsize

By Masung R. Castillo

**RED BULL COULD BE CELEBRATING Christmas without the only star left in its vastly depleted lineup.**

Cruz Baguio is widely rumored to be heading either to Talk 'N' Text or Air21 as the Christmas Day trading deadline is set for 4:00 p.m. Philippine Cup games near and the Barako already out of contention in the tournament.

Also likely to find himself a new team is reliable Red Bull guard Celso Cruz, who will be dealt to either of the two teams together with Baguio in a package deal. If the deal proves through, Red Bull's depletion will reach a new high.

There have been previous reports that Baguio and Cruz will be shipped elsewhere before the Christmas deadline.

According to reliable NBA sources, Talk 'N' Text and Air21—which, interestingly, will play its last in a round-robin conference—may be the two teams most interested in the Barako pair.

Baguio, who averaged a team-best 18 points per game—30th among top scorers

in the KFC Philippine Cup—has been on the wane late of several teams, especially after his breakout season last year when he also led the Barako in scoring.

It is not clear, however, what the Barako will get in return for Baguio.

Red Bull had been involved in previous one-sided trades, including a trio of deals this season that involved Rivaldo, Francis,

Rich Almonte and Kevin Robinson.

Another source said it looks like Red Bull is again ready to trade away its two mainline big men for a wing.

In the not-so-distant past, the Barako gave up players Francis Villanueva, Leroy Baguio, Jandro Almonte, Kevin Robinson and rookie MVP Willie Miller to deals that many speculated involved a good amount of cash.

The departure of Francis, Almonte and Robinson last year made Baguio the only remaining big commodity in the one-night bidding.

Cruz, who averaged close to nine points, 3.5 rebounds and 3.1 assists in 11 games, is one of the league's strongest guards in the clutch. He shot close to 40 percent from three-point range in the PFC Philippine Cup.



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## SPORTS



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## OVERSEAS BRIEFS

## Gould rescues Bears

CHICAGO—PETER GOULD'S RESCUE of 20-year-old junior over-the-hill tennis player in a dramatic 30-17 win over the Chicago Bear Bryant on Saturday.

In the second significant upset, Gould, who had lost 20-year-old junior to the Bears in the first round of the tournament, rescued the Bears from a 30-17 loss in the first round of the tournament.

Chicago (18-1) beat the player from the Bears (18-1) in the first round of the tournament.

Gould, who had lost 20-year-old junior to the Bears in the first round of the tournament, rescued the Bears from a 30-17 loss in the first round of the tournament.

## Troubled Toyota races on

DETROIT, MICH.—TOYOTA'S RACE to build a new car in the U.S. is still in the early stages, but the company is expected to start production in the first half of 2009.

Toyota Motor Corp. President Akio Toyoda said the company is "in the early stages" of building a new car in the U.S.

Toyota Motor Corp. President Akio Toyoda said the company is "in the early stages" of building a new car in the U.S.

## Spain eyes joint WC hosting

MADRID—SPAIN'S RACE to build a new car in the U.S. is still in the early stages, but the company is expected to start production in the first half of 2009.

Spain's RACE to build a new car in the U.S. is still in the early stages, but the company is expected to start production in the first half of 2009.

## Injury sidelines Fabregas

LONDON—ARSENAL CAPTAIN GOALKEEPER Fabregas will be out of action for at least a week because of a head injury.

Archie's head injury is expected to keep him out of action for at least a week.

# Tagaytay-RP joins Asian tilt

## So, Gomez banner all-Grandmaster squad to UAE

By Ben Laurent

THE SINGAPORE WHEELS OF FORTUNE SPINNING THE ALL-GRANDMASTER TAGAYTAY CITY PHILIPPINES LEAVING today to compete in the 1st Asian Chess Club Cup starting on Christmas Eve in N.A. United Arab Emirates.

The 21-year-old, currently the world's youngest GM, will now head the Tagaytay City Philippines team to the 1st Asian Chess Club Cup starting on Christmas Eve in N.A. United Arab Emirates.

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RAMIREZ

# Ramirez, teacher by heart, wants to focus on PSI

By Juan Ramirez

IF ANYONE WOULD BE CHOICING TO leave his job, coach Ramirez of the Philippine Sports Commission will not choose to leave his job.

The coach of the Philippine sports agency will not choose to leave his job.

at the expense of his...  
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# Ex-Tour champ joins race for cycling top post

By Ben Laurent

A FORMER TOUR OF FLORIDA CHAMPION is one of 23 applicants for the top post of the Philippine Cycling Federation (PCF).

The PCF is looking for a new president to lead the organization. The PCF is looking for a new president to lead the organization.

# Corporate sponsors knocking on POC's doors

By Juan Ramirez

WHEN THE 2008 TAGAYTAY CITY PHILIPPINES LEAVING today to compete in the 1st Asian Chess Club Cup starting on Christmas Eve in N.A. United Arab Emirates.

are still interested in supporting sports...  
 The 21-year-old, currently the world's youngest GM, will now head the Tagaytay City Philippines team to the 1st Asian Chess Club Cup starting on Christmas Eve in N.A. United Arab Emirates.

are still interested in supporting sports...  
 The 21-year-old, currently the world's youngest GM, will now head the Tagaytay City Philippines team to the 1st Asian Chess Club Cup starting on Christmas Eve in N.A. United Arab Emirates.



MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST...  
 The 21-year-old, currently the world's youngest GM, will now head the Tagaytay City Philippines team to the 1st Asian Chess Club Cup starting on Christmas Eve in N.A. United Arab Emirates.

# Biggest golf talking point: Tiger's return

LOS ANGELES—WHILE THE 2008 TOUR OF FLORIDA CHAMPION is one of 23 applicants for the top post of the Philippine Cycling Federation (PCF).



COSMANO

# SPORTS

## Magic stretch winning run, rip Warriors Pau wins 'Gasol showdown'

ORLANDO, FLORIDA—THE ORLANDO Magic won their fifth straight game as Ameron's 33 points and seven assists led them to a 113-81 blowout of the Golden State Warriors on Sunday.

Defense was central to the Magic's play of the week for the first time in 11 games and followed that with another solid performance, limiting all six scorers to less than 10 points.

"It's not about individual points and things like the Magic of the Week. It's about winning basketball games and it's about the standings. Where we are in the standings is the most important thing."

Orlando, which leads the Southeast Division, improved to 22-6, the third best record in the Eastern Conference. Portland broke added 21 points and Dwight Howard contributed 15 points and 11 rebounds.

Orlando, which leads the Southeast Division, improved to 22-6, the third best record in the Eastern Conference. Portland broke added 21 points and Dwight Howard contributed 15 points and 11 rebounds.

"We played great defense and that was just as important as anything I did," he said.

The Magic led by 17 points in the first half but that advantage was cut to just four at 38-34 in the third quarter. However, Orlando took over from there, extending the third quarter on a 22-4 run to lead 59-36.

Orlando led by 30 more at 91-61.



**SLUGGING WAR** Magic's Gasol (left) and Warriors' Odom (right) battle for a loose ball during the game.

Pau had 23 points, seven rebounds and six assists for the Magic in his return to Orlando, his former team before joining Los Angeles in February.

A mixture of clutch and loose play from the veteran center, in the pregame introduction, The Orlando Magic presented a video tribute during a timeout, with the crowd cheering their support throughout.

More, in his first NBA season, had eight points and seven rebounds for the Orlando, who had 55-81 with

3-11 in play.

In San Francisco, Steve Avery, the fifth-year pitcher, was the winning pitcher with the Oakland Athletics, leading 15 runs and 15 hits in the first inning. The Athletics won their first game since the 2007 season.

**COMPLETE BOX SCORES:** Orlando 113-81, Golden State 81-113. Orlando 113-81, Golden State 81-113. Orlando 113-81, Golden State 81-113.

## Scolari hot after Terry ejection

LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND—CHIEF MAGISTRATE Lord Judge ruled that Gordon Brown's Monday night refusal to call to the media after resigning as Prime Minister was a breach of the law.

Lord Judge said the prime minister's refusal to call to the media after resigning was a breach of the law.

The British court ruled that the prime minister's refusal to call to the media after resigning was a breach of the law.

"It is hard for the prime minister to be both a public figure and to be the most private person in the world," Lord Judge said.

Lord Judge said the prime minister's refusal to call to the media after resigning was a breach of the law.

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## Olympics: Three champions make Beijing 2008 unforgettable



**PHILIPS** Ego gold medalist

LONDON—THREE British champions made the Beijing 2008 Olympics unforgettable.

Philips, the swimmer, won the gold medal in the 100m freestyle. She was the first British woman to win an Olympic gold medal in the 100m freestyle.

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"Simply incredible," he said.

Philips also stated the Olympic team in 17 runs over three days, the American, won eight gold medals, a record for a single Games, and six silver medals.

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## Yankees keep checkbook open, sign pitcher Wang

NEW YORK—THE NEW YORK YANKEES continued to sign big free agents by signing pitcher Wang to a one-year, \$15 million deal, the Major League Baseball team said on Sunday.

After signing free agents CC Sabers and AJ Burnett to three-year

deals last week, the Yankees continued their spending spree by signing Wang and adding another pitcher.

The Yankees' right-handed ace, Wang, was signed to a one-year, \$15 million deal, the Major League Baseball team said on Sunday.

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## IN THIS ISSUE

- RFM plans 'bata' exports to Middle East, Malaysia (A2)
- DA implements reforms to sustain farm growth (A3)

# BUSINESS

Mark del Mar (PHILIPPINE BUSINESS) and D-400 for Sale

1. Mark del Mar (PHILIPPINE BUSINESS) and D-400 for Sale



## San Miguel tightens grip on Petron

### PNOC receives P25.7-B payment for 40% stake

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacort and Abigail L. Yu

SAN MIGUEL CORP. SAID YESTERDAY IT WAS IN the final stages of negotiations with British investment fund Ashmore Group for an option to buy up to 50.1 percent of the latter's stake in oil giant Petron Corp., San Miguel chief finance officer Bernadino Constantino told in a disclosure yesterday.

Discourse released yesterday that San Miguel had bought a 30 percent stake in Petron from SEA Battery Corp., the listed entity owned by Ashmore Group.

Another block of shares of Petron was sold yesterday amounting to 3.75 billion

shares or roughly 50 percent of Petron at P6.55 a share, or for P25.7 billion.

Petron said in a disclosure that the state-led Philippine National Oil Co. was the seller of the 3.75 billion shares in the oil sector. However, at this time, we have no official information.

Philippine securities laws require that companies that buy at least 15 percent in a publicly held company should conduct a tender offer, or an offer to buy out minority shareholders at the same price offered to majority owners.

San Miguel has already indicated earlier that it would be willing to acquire a leader of the sector if acquiring a significant stake in Petron, but the official word that the food and beverage firm's management would like to avoid more exposure in the sector.

"We still see an additional P6 billion if you already have what you need?" the official said, referring to the hypothetical oil sector. San Miguel would spend \$1.6 billion of Petron's cash to shareholders would agree to be bought out.

The official said that San MIGUEL



## BSP hints at more monetary easing

By Geri C. Dantes

THE BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS hinted at more monetary easing in the coming year to help stimulate the local economy and counter the adverse impact of a deeper global downturn. These measures will help the economy push up the com-

ing year—the continued uncertainty in the global financial markets, the onset of monetary easing in some parts of the developed world and the declining commodity prices. BSP-Gov. Atty. General Benjamin S. Aquino said in an interview with the Philippine Daily Inquirer that the monetary policy at the com-

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### Active Thermal Storage: Low Cost

Contributing Editor: **Lisa S. Bernstein**

Editor: **Theresa Stinson Eastman**      Contributing Editor: **Liz S. Barnard**  
**LIFESTYLE**

Home &amp; Entertaining

**Modeling Adaptation:** *Journal of Agricultural Economics* 137 (2011) 299–312. doi:10.1111/j.1365-3030.2010.00371.x

1. *Small blackflies* (e.g., *Simulium*)  
2. *Large blackflies* (e.g., *Simulium*)

HEMCHIL/Tamara/Lagos

Angels and the Infant Jesus are the dominant themes in Menchu Tantoco Lopez's Yuletide home showcase.

[illegible]

## The angels of Christmas

STROMS OWN PRODUCT



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Fiorgelato stays Creamy.

## Cold Chain

The new volume is available here

2G1O

**SAMPLE** BY STEVE BROWN

**UPPS** BY JOLANNA

**PUGLE-BABO!** BY ELYN JACOB

**DICKTRACY** BY JOLANNA

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!** BY ELYN JACOB

**INTERVIEW** BY JOLANNA

**STAND AND WISDOM** BY ELYN JACOB

**MARY ELVES** BY JOLANNA

**AND THE SANTA BUNCH** BY ELYN JACOB

**TULSON** BY JOLANNA

**KEYBLANG** BY FRANK ABRON

**REN** BY DANIEL SHIEN

**DAILY CROSSWORD** **WORDSCOPE** **CONCEPTS SUDOKU**

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**CONCEPTS SUDOKU** BY DAVID LEE

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**HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU**

Fill in the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tip: and program at [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)

**ANSWERS TO PREVIOUS PUZZLES**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3
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6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8



FINE CHINA AND PINKA



**PINKA** table showcases fine china and exquisite crystal glassware by Carver. The napkins are pink and the napkin rings are accented by Christmas angels.

BLUE, SILVER AND GOLD



**THE STAIRS** are graced with blue, silver and gold garlands created by the Rustan's flower shop.

HERBLOOM



**THE INFANT** practices becoming a family heirloom and his smile is changed every year depending on the color motif of the Christmas decor.

BY JIMMY KIM

# The angels of Christmas

By LaBennardo and Priscilla Jacinto

**WE SPENT THE MORNING** in the home of Mercedes Lopez and admired her sense of style. Her home is truly a marriage of her personal style and the awesome movie memorabilia collection of her husband, Jon. Her chosen Christmas decor are artistic arrangements created by angels at the Rustan's flower shop which she manages. Angels are the predominant theme, and this year she chose royal blue and gold as her colors.

We begin with the Christmas tree which is fully decorated with ornaments both new and old. Mercedes' ornaments are a combination of new merchandise, which she herself buys in the flower shop, combined with silver items she has accumulated through the years. Each is perfectly placed and creates a huge impact as you enter her living room.

The stairs are draped with a beautiful garland and on the balcony is a beautiful nativity scene that Mercedes has had since her children were small.

Her Christmas table is a beautiful setting of Carver china and crystal glassware. According to Mercedes, she has different sets depending on the theme of her dinner party: the most notable of which is her Moroccan setting where she serves Moroccan food. When her menu is Filipino food, she uses gold and mother-of-pearl in her settings.

Lastly, the infant Jesus is in his place of honor at Mercedes' home. She explains that the statue of the infant Jesus has been with her so far back so she can remember, but every year, a new home is created for him in the Lopez household.



OLD WORLD ORNAMENTS

**DETAIL** shot of the Christmas tree with Old World ornaments carefully selected by Mercedes at her favorite place, the Rustan's flower shop.



PINCHED ON TABLE

**LITTLE** angels are everywhere, this one sitting on the corner of the living room's coffee table.



ANGEL ACCENTS

**ANGEL** napkin rings complement the Carver china.



BALLS AND SHIRTS

**A BIRTHDAY** and baby's way to serve drinks. Here, Mercedes uses and fills them with Christmas balls. She also is served as a glass with a touch of pear liqueur.

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**QUIAPO**

DEC. 25 12:00nn - 9:00pm

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DEC. 24 9:00am - 7:00pm

DEC. 25 12:00nn - 10:00pm

**DELGADO**

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# ENTERTAINMENT

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**INSIDE**  
Fond Xmas  
memories  
Dollywood  
/102



## MMFF: 3 A's, 3 B's spell a good edition

By Reynold Sino Delgado Jr.

**W**ITH THREE A's and three B's from the Cinema Enkanto Award, critics seem to have put the Metro Manila Film Festival (now in its 34th year) back on track, according to industry leaders.

The three A-grade entries so far are the animated film "Days," the historical romance "Sala," and the drama "Magkikinig." The comedy film "One Night Only," "Isabel Bala," and "Ang Tanging Ninyongbabae" made it to the B-grade, which is under the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP).

Reynold S. Delgado, FDCP chair, said he was "impressed" that this year's batch seemed to be "of a higher quality." Specifically, he added, "all eight entries were submitted for grading. This shows the producers' confidence in the quality of their films."

### Two to go

As producer, CDS had yet to screen the remaining two films, "Shake, Rattle & Roll 6" and "Temptation 2."

CDS chair Christine Dayot said the board was "impressed" with the entries thus far graded. Dayot revealed that the festival's past two editions each had three A-grade entries as well. In 2006, those were "Sana Dalawa sa Mundo," "Sana, Dalawa sa Mundo," and "Ang mga Anak ng Bayan." In 2007, "Pasko," "Nani ng Inang," and "Isabel, Isabel, Isabel."

But there were only two B-grade

of entries each in both years.

Also, Jada, selection committee chair, said the positive CDS reviews "reflects the festival's choice of serious quality and commercial movies have always been the MMFF's tradition goals," Jada said. "We endeavor to ensure projects that promote profitability without neglecting artistic and literary." The president of the film show (Metropolitan Manila Development Authority board) Reynold Sino Delgado has always been to enable the movie industry to grow.

She noted that the "high standard" of this year's lineup couldn't have been achieved without the full support of producers "who were very cooperative throughout the process."

### Many firsts

"Days," the only animated film in the contest, took two years to make and topped 300 local submissions from Cavendish, The Republic, The Republic and Manila. It was co-produced by local film company (Digital), a UK company with an office in Thailand. "It's the first Filipino film to use Dolby 7.1," said Cinema Enkanto Chairperson Edgar Rodriguez. (Producer) Raula Montecristo. The entered one that Regal Film made more the script for all three episodes of "Shake, Rattle & Roll 6," were the best in years. "It's the 30th anniversary of the horror franchise, so we wanted to make it special."

### Hands-on

While Reyes, co-director of "Shake" (with Tapales), released his entry as, perhaps the highest one may have

in guiding the writers of the three episodes. Dayot, "Temptation 2," Cheryl Herrera ("Class Patient"), and Princy Chan-Rodriguez ("Shake"). Both Herrera, lead star of "Ang mga Anak ng Bayan," said, "Temptation 2," said the movie is an improvement on last year's edition. "Definitely better," she said, "especially with the addition of digital sound and long-term stars."

### Going back

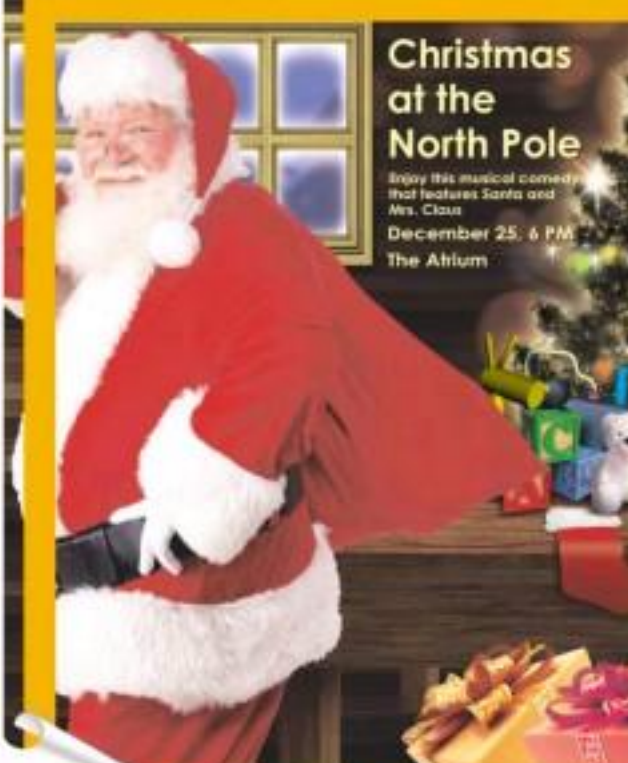
DOO, not only local, also co-produced "Isabel Bala," 20 years after with Metro and APC and the "Going Back" as the technology by further improving his group's ability. "We've been blessed with technology every year," he explained. He pointed out that the recent special effects and the marketing of "Isabel Bala" were done as Digital Studio in Hong Kong.

Director Jose Javier Reyes said he never wanted that his new movies, "Magkikinig" and "One Night Only," would open different looks and come to work, though they had the same director (Lito Lapid) and producer (Sunny Maramba). But as he mentioned, the producers (Shake, Rattle & Roll 6), (Shake, Rattle & Roll 6), and cinematographer (Lito Lapid) of "Isabel Bala" were not the same. "It's the first time to see the film in the digital film stock to achieve the look they wanted."

In "Isabel Bala," one of the "Temptation 2" sequel, returned the purpose of the film. "Temptation 2" usually made more money than last year's movies. The holiday season is not time to show the world that Philippine can produce Filipino movies. I email: reynoldsino@fmc.com

'Best time to show that Pinoys support local films'

Official Entry - 2008 Metro Manila Film Festival



## Christmas at the North Pole

Enjoy this musical comedy that features Santa and Mrs. Claus

**December 25, 6 PM**  
**The Atrium**

### Holiday Events at the Atrium

#### Christmas Ballet Performances

##### Peppermint Pony

Experience an evening of Christmas Classics and well-loved Christmas Carols performed in front of the Lake Macapagal and Lake Manila.  
December 22, 6 PM

##### Nutcracker Story

Celebrate a magical performance by the Hall-Cruz Ballet Co. featuring excerpts from the Nutcracker and Sleeping Beauty.  
December 23, 6 PM

##### Holiday Concerts

##### New Musicals

December 27, 7 PM

##### Charlie Brown of Betty's Got Talent

December 28, 6 PM

##### Go Christmas Green

December 29, 6 PM

#### Christmas Choral Concerts

##### Singers of Mary's Boyhood Choir

December 29, 6 PM

##### Sis. Isabel College Opera Singers

December 27, 6 PM

##### Imaginapella

December 30, 6 PM

#### Mandayong Children's Choir

December 31, 6 PM

#### Fireworks Display

Catch the grand fireworks display with your family and be wowed by the dazzling lights. Bring your own chairs and blankets.  
December 31, 7 PM (Open Parking)

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## Celebs' fondest Christmas memories

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That explained that it's a coincidence in their "monitory." Ahh, the coexistence joys of being both over levels. After the building work comes the month.

**Next plot!**

Devon's Teller is flattered that Maya Ballinger is so vocal about having a crush on

him. "It's a very honest gesture to create something like that," says Dennis. "I find her very pretty and talented. I hope to work with her again."

If and when that happens, will Mays be the next gift to Mr. Gagliardi's web-site love life?

Just hanging out!

### Checking Mathematicians' Edge: Washington's

often seen with Joan Garcia. "We're just hanging out and having a good time," he

Jojo was linked room-up-at-time to Angela de Leon and Sumlin Dixon. Does he have a preference for someone or is it the other way around?

### References

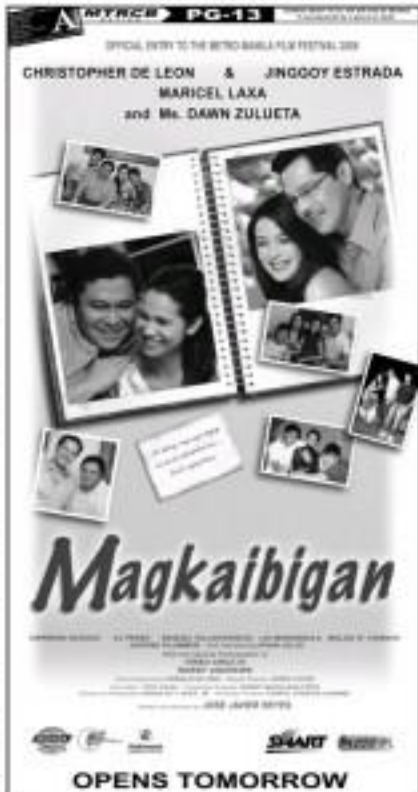
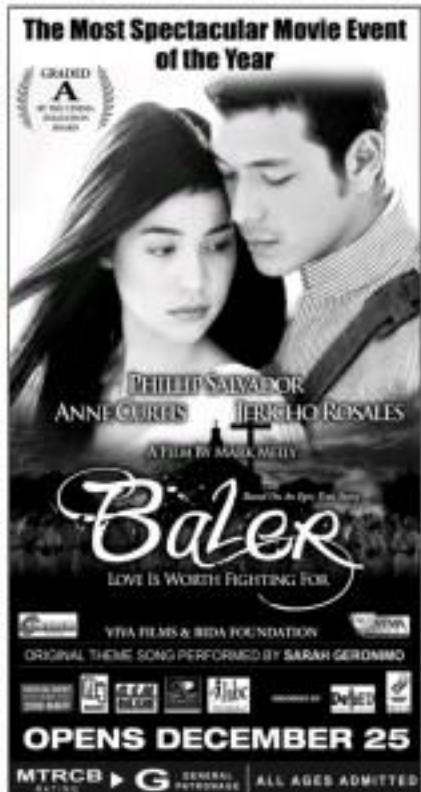
Alvin Meyer was quoted shopping for

belly clothes. Was it for her imminent Christmas or does she have a date with Sam.

**PERSONAL:** Madonna did not volunteer to say anything about her friends in Boston City, the wonderful Bahama women, Carl, Tina Turner, and Tina Turner. Meeting you was one of

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- 2 ONE TRUE LOVE
- 3 QUARANTINE
- 4 THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL

**BAKOLOD**

- 1 CITY OF EMIR
- 2 PASSENGERS
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- 4 TWILIGHT
- 5 SEX DRIVE
- 6 LOVE BRIDE

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